

# INTERMOUNTAIN REGION - ABOUT THE FOREST

## BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST



### **Bridger-Teton Forest Supervisor**

**Tricia O'Connor** is the Forest Supervisor on the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Jackson, Wyoming. Starting as a wildlife biologist on the Mount Hood National Forest, she has worked as a biologist, district ranger, staff officer and deputy forest supervisor in Oregon, Montana and Alaska, and short assignment in Washington, D.C. before landing in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Bridger-Teton National Forest's 3.4 million acres includes complex winter and summer recreation and wilderness programs, range, timber, fuels and fire management, oil and gas. Whether its keeping our many partners and collaborative groups informed, chairing the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee overseeing grizzly bear recovery, coaching the Senior Leader Program, life is always exciting and interesting on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

### **About the Forest**

The Bridger-Teton National Forest is 3.4 million acres and is adjacent to both Grand-Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge. The Bridger-Teton has three nationally dedicated wilderness areas, which include the Bridger Wilderness, the Gros Ventre Wilderness and the Teton Wilderness.

Many of Bridger-Teton's visitors wish to view the diverse wildlife. The Forest provides habitat for an abundance of species. Examples of wildlife include grizzly bear, elk, moose, bighorn sheep and large raptors.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest is part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem which is the largest intact ecosystem in the continental United States.. It has played an important part in the recovery of species such as the wolf, grizzly bear, and white bark pine.

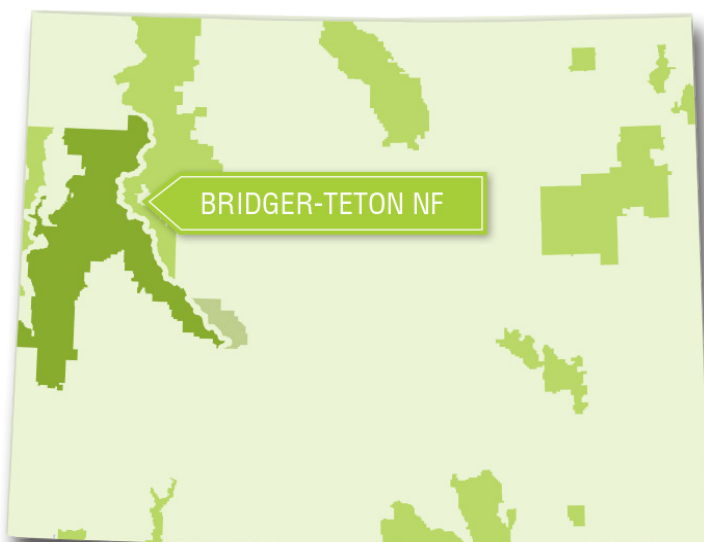
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### About the Forest (Continued)

The Upper Snake River is known for its crystal clear waters, unique geology, numerous recreation adventures, and amazing varieties of wildlife. The Forest has 315-miles Wild scenic rivers, some of which are very popular. Most notably, the Snake River is visited by 200,000 forest users each summer for the whitewater and scenic sections. The Forest is a recreation destination year-round with 3 ski areas and access to the Continental Divide Scenic trail, as well as many front country opportunities such as multiday horse and backpacking trips, 3000 miles of road and trail, and a host of scenic recreational opportunities.

The Bridger-Teton surrounds a variety of communities in Western WY including Jackson, Pinedale, Kemmerer and Alpine WY and supports a variety of economic and social needs in those communities. This includes both cattle and sheep grazing, outfitter and guide businesses, small level of oil and gas leasing and timber harvest. The Forest does support an active fuels management program, which includes a mix of mechanical, prescribed fire and managing wildfires for a range of resource benefits.



The BTNF had approx. 37,600 sheep and 27,200 cattle on 98 active grazing allotments across the forest.



Total skier user days during the winter of FY19 was 774,651 across 3 ski areas.



There were 2.2 million visitors to the BTNF in 2019.



615 individual volunteers worked on the BTNF in FY19.



The BTNF completed 3274 acres of prescribed fire in the Wildland Urban Interface in 2019.



19,668 CCF of Timber was prepped on the BTNF in FY19.



The BTNF collected \$1,101,702 in fees from campgrounds, rental cabins, outfitter & guides and other.



The BTNF was able to replace four bridges in FY19, and maintained 386-mi of road.